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STATINTL

U.S. News-Leak Probe Is Asked

Washington Bureau of The Sun
Washington, Feb. 23—Representative Samuel S. Stratton (D., N.Y.) today demanded an investigation by the Attorney General of a reported 1968 news leak on a request from American headquarters in Saigon for an additional 206,000 troops.

The story appeared in the *New York Times*. Mr. Stratton cited an article in the February 10 edition of *The Sun*, by the Washington bureau chief, Philip Potter, saying the information had been given to the *Times* by Townsend S. Hoopes, then under secretary of the Air Force. The story described Mr. Hoopes as "a Pentagon dove."

Mr. Stratton asked the Attorney General what the legal penalties for unauthorized disclosure of classified information were and whether the Department of Justice had taken any steps to prosecute Mr. Hoopes. "One can't help but wonder," he added, "in what other ways this particular kind of disloyalty and defiance of law on the part of civilians occupying the highest possible positions in the Pentagon during the tenure of Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara may have complicated and prolonged our efforts to achieve our national objectives in Vietnam."